



# Inside Congress

*by United States Representative George R. Nethercutt, Jr.*

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**For the week ending November 15, 2002**

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Welcome to this week's edition of Inside Congress. I am glad to share with you a little of my work in the national legislature. Please follow the listed links or contact my office for more information on the topics mentioned here.

## **WWII NORMANDY VETS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL MEDAL**

Last week I presented eight U.S. Army veterans with the Jubilee of Liberty medal for their service during the Normandy invasion in 1944.

Albert Bair, Ferdinand Butzlaff, George Cole, Stephen Mooradian, Bernard Moran, Earl Noland, Milton Olson, William Raub received Jubilee of Liberty medals for their participation in Operation Overlord from June 6 to Sept. 15, 1944. The late Cecil Derr was also recognized at the ceremony. Mr. Derr's medal was presented to his widow at his funeral last week.

The Governor of Normandy directed the Jubilee of Liberty medal to be minted and distributed in the United States to the veterans who were not able to attend the D-Day 50th anniversary ceremonies in 1994. The medals are presented through official agencies, such as a congressional offices.

Designed in Paris, the gold medal features an engraving of the torch from the Statue of Liberty on one side, and a map of Normandy and the D-Day invasion beaches and flags of the Allied nations on the reverse side. The cost of each medal is being underwritten by Global Credit Union.

I encourage veterans who served in Normandy to contact my office to determine their eligibility for this award. I learned of the medal on my visit to the Normandy American Cemetery on Memorial Day, and I am working to spread the word to veterans that I want to help them receive the honors they deserve.

Sadly, time is against us. We are losing upwards of 1,000 American World War II heroes every day. Please help me spread the word by talking to your family in friends about this award.

**Veterans and their families interested in finding out more information about the medals and whether they qualify to receive one should contact my Spokane office at (509) 353-2374.**

## **THE TEST THAT CAN LOWER RISK OF DIABETES COMPLICATIONS**

This week I spoke at a luncheon in support of a new initiative to help diabetics manage their disease and lower their risk of developing complications, such as stroke or heart attack.

Aim. Believe. Achieve. The Diabetes A1C Initiative™ will educate Americans about the importance of A1C, a test that measures blood glucose levels over a two-month period and is considered the standard for assessing blood sugar control. An A1C level below 7% is the recommended medical target, and achieving this level can help reduce the risk of complications. However, more than half of Americans with diabetes undergoing treatment have unacceptably high blood sugar levels.

As the parent of a child with diabetes, I have seen first-hand the challenges of managing the disease. It's critical that we help the more than 6 million Americans who struggle with controlling their blood sugar.

For people with type 2 diabetes, a 1% decrease in A1C can lower their risk of developing complications related to diabetes by up to 35%. A healthy A1C level is also associated with a 25% reduction in diabetes-related deaths, and an 18% decline in combined fatal and nonfatal heart attacks. Empowering people to control blood sugar levels is an important step toward reducing the risks associated with diabetes, such as stroke, blindness, heart attack and loss of limbs.

## **PALOUSE AND SPOKANE COUNTY RECEIVE FIRE GRANTS**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) have awarded grants to Spokane County Fire District 3 and the Palouse Fire Department totaling \$121,851 in the 8th round of Fiscal Year 2002 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Awards.

Palouse Fire Department will receive \$36,441 and Spokane Fire District 3 will receive \$85,410 for fire operations and firefighter safety

Our firefighters play a critical role in the safety of our communities. I'm pleased to see these departments get assistance to help improve their ability to respond and protect our citizens.

The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. A list of all current award recipients announced to date is posted on the USFA web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov/grants](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants).

## **ON THE FLOOR**

Here is a recap of the legislative activity for the week:

**H.R. 5710, Homeland Security Act.** The bill passed by a vote of 299-121. I voted yes.

This legislation creates a new Department of Homeland Security, encompassing existing agencies responsible for security including the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Services enforcement, and the Secret Service, among others.

The bill takes steps to ensure the freedom of Americans by banning a national identification card, and prohibits programs that would promote citizens spying on one another. An Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties will be established to protect citizens from federal over-reach as well.

The bill creates a National Homeland Security Council similar to the National Security Council to advise the president on homeland security issues. The legislation also limits the department's authority to keep it from imposing excessive regulations, making sweeping changes, overspending taxpayer money or usurping too much authority.

**H.J.Res. 124,** Making continuing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003. The bill passed by a vote of 270-143. I voted yes.

The 2003 fiscal year began on Oct. 1, 2002. This bill was needed to keep the federal government operating for the through January while Congress finishes its work on FY2003 spending bills.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

I always enjoy hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any matter. Here are some of the ways you may reach me, especially if you know of others who may want to receive this report each week:

### **Spokane Office**

920 W. Riverside, Suite 594  
Spokane, WA 99201  
509-353-2374  
Fax: 509-353-2412

### **Spokane Valley Office**

9209 E. Mission Avenue, Suite C  
Spokane, WA 99206  
509-924-7775

### **Walla Walla Office**

29 S. Palouse Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-529-9358  
Fax: 509-529-9379

### **Washington, D.C. Office**

223 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-224-2006

Fax: 509-924-7671

**Colville Office**

555 S. Main Street

Colville, WA 99114

509-684-3481

Fax: 509-684-3482

Fax: 202-225-3392

**Website**

[www.house.gov/nethercutt](http://www.house.gov/nethercutt)

**Electronic Mail**

[www.house.gov/nethercutt/contact](http://www.house.gov/nethercutt/contact)